

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## The Circus Again

The circus was in town last week, and balloon men and hurdy-gurdies, with attendant monkeys and children lacking the wherewithal to buy, went about the streets without number. The very breath of a suspicion that the parade is to pass your way will draw out the most motley-looking crew of human beings it has ever been one's lot to gaze upon—a perfect ocean of new faces and personalities that one has not yet touched. All the invalids and bed-ridden parents and grandparents begin at once to feel a secret stirring in their souls to see the sight, and willy-nilly they must be hustled aboard rolling chairs and into buggies to get a glimpse of the passing show. You might pass Jule and her twins on any corner and somebody's little son that helps the grocer deliver goods has slipped off for this once and is holding an equally smutty small mirror light in his arms, serene with happiness that she shall see it all. Dear me, the people the circus does draw on the corner!

It has a wide charm that is never dimmed or broken by time and all the other things that weary one's cultivated soul and are slated to be uninteresting after a given number of performances have been witnessed. So many of us "want to smell the sawdust and hear the clown's jokes and laugh and laugh with the crowd."

When the parade finally does come—did you ever yet see a parade come slowly down the given street at the given time—after you have chased your friends and neighbors' children from three streets over to two streets back and finally fallen exhausted on your own doorstep to see it there after all, it's right nice, isn't it? The band wagon that just stopped playing two squares away leads the procession, and then follows such a gorgeous array of ladies and animals and Irish-looking Japs and all the wonderful things that go to make up the whole of "Right this way, ladies and gentlemen, for the greatest show on earth." The shush of the big elephants' feet and the pink and blue riders being jolted around the tops of the animal wagons, and finally the steam calliope, ever-present and never changing, and you turn away with "Next to Your Mother, Kid, Who Do You Love?" floating back down the street, and a flutter of the last spangled dancer around the corner. It's different. The children chatter and mention a whole square yard of wonders that have passed, but—"can it be that we, too, have become Olympians?"

## What Is Woman Here?

The latest question agitating the club women of the country is, "What are women?" It was introduced in a Washington woman's club recently by Mrs. Ruth G. D. Havens, who offered as an offset to the seeming absurdity of her query three court decisions concerning them. The United States Supreme Court, she observed, adjudged women are not citizens; in a Maryland court it was found they are not persons, and a Wisconsin judge determined that they are not people. Hence, Mrs. Havens remarks, it only remains for publishers of city directories to decide women are not inhabitants to have the entire city swept from the map. She has been flooded with as many answers to the question as Dr. Harvey W. Wiley got in his "What is Whiskey?" investigation last spring. What do we find it here, great thinkers on great questions?

## The Dutch Coiffure.

The coiffure of the moment depends entirely upon the individuality of the wearer and the type of hat she may affect.

With the advent of autumn we are not likely to lose the piquant little cap that envelops both head and ears and is destructive of an elaborate coiffure, and so the neat, close dressing will continue to be seen.

One of the coiffures that finds great favor is that of the wide swathe of hair which is drawn in from the forehead to the centre of the crown, encircling the head and making an effective finish to the neat coils that are arranged right at the back of the head. There may be a centre or side parting in the front, but only a comparatively small amount of hair shows above the brow, as the swathe is arranged very near to the temples.

This style of coiffure suits the woman with the small, trim head who dislikes any bouffant effects above the ears, and it is an admirable fashion for the housewife, who must preserve her hair as long as possible.

The more artistic woman, who prefers a looser method of arrangement, may like to let her hair at the back in wide "figure eights," encircled by a long swathe of hair. In this case the coiffure is more bouffant over the ears, and is in many cases arranged at the side in a series of two or three puff curls, which are somewhat reminiscent of those worn by the fair ladies of the Stuart period.

There is little doubt of a still determined attempt to revive the fringe of short hair on the forehead, and to some girls a certain piquancy of appearance is added by the choice.

Many women refuse to abandon the multiplicity of curls that have so long been in vogue, but are arranging them a little higher on the head than before, and finishing them with the popular flat coil of hair. The hair is first parted in the centre and each side is drawn in over the crown, and at the back, where the two ends are twisted into a coil. Above this is arranged a series of curls, either natural or artificial, and this again is encircled with a long swathe of hair.

The reign of artificial hair is by no means over, for, although simplicity is said to be the leading note of the present coiffure, it is the simplicity of art and not of nature, and almost every coiffure must be built up with the aid of some artificial accessory.

In the newest coiffures the ears are completely hidden by the hair, which is turned back into a species of loose puff, often extending to the back of the neck. In front the hair is drawn down on to the forehead, where it is slightly waved, and is then parted a little to the left side. Here it is completed by a trio of three or four short puffs that hide the ear, and at the back it is rolled into a loose, long puff that extends from the crown to the neck.



EFFECTIVE MODELS FOR NOVELTY AND PLAIN MATERIALS.

L'Art de la Mode.

## Opening Nuts of Witch Hazel Make Delightful Witches

Though publications designed for the perusal of the feminine public team every year with suggestions for the proper celebration of Halloween, new ideas on the subject, as is the case with most other subjects, are scarce, and people who have had occasion to arrange a good many Halloween festivities grow weary of continually rinking the changes on one theme. In such a state of mind a resourceful hostess last year found salvation in the witch hazel. Surely this bush was rightly named, for could anything be more witchlike than the expression of the opening nuts?

Driving through the October woods, the resourceful woman was struck by this resemblance. Flatteringly vindictive seemed the weird faces that peeped from the bush, or else full of merriment, as if anticipating a share in mysterious pranks and pastimes. In a flash came a vision of these brown and grinning faces decked in pointed caps and streaming cloaks, astride of tiny brooms with which to sweep the cobwebs off the sky. The Halloween hostess lifted her arms with the golden, nut-covered branches, the horse's head was turned homeward, and a brief stop was made at the stationer's for sheets of black tissue paper and a tube of paste. Success was easily attained, and any woman who has access to a witch hazel bush can, by following a few simple directions, fashion for herself as "weird sisters" as ever danced on the heath near Macbeth's castle.

For the gowns, black, rather than cut, pieces of the black tissue paper into wedge-shaped, irregular lengths of from four to five inches, each narrowing down toward the bottom of a skirt into a ragged point, which, when properly adjusted, gives the effect of streaming out upon the breeze.

A twig bearing only two or three of the grinning faces or one thickly covered with nuts may be chosen, but, in any case, those which should be picked out, and, if possible, there should be some suggestion of out-reaching arms on the smaller twigs among which the nuts cluster.

Having selected a twig, cover the top of the nut which is to be dressed with glue or paste, and then put on the

little cap, which upon drying will adhere firmly to its place. Across the forehead gum a few shreds of cotton batting to represent flowing locks of snowy hair. Put a touch of Chinese white in the hollows of the eye sockets, a dot of black within to suggest the eyeball, and a stroke above both for the eyebrows.

The witch is now ready to put on her skirt and cloak and mount her broomstick. In arranging the dress twine the broad end of the piece of tissue paper firmly once or twice about the supporting stem of the nut. The cloak is best adjusted by the drawing taut of a black thread run in and out at the base of the standing collar. Give to both skirt and cloak a twist here and there to suggest the play of the wind, and for the broom bend a few wisps of straw upon a toothpick, running its pointed end in and out of the skirt underneath the cloak. The branches may be used in various ways, but will show up best against a red background. For place cards a single witch may be attached to a scarlet card, which may bear such inscriptions as:

"For fun take witch-hazel," or the couplet from Macbeth: "Saw you not the weird sisters? Came they not by you?"

## Appropriate Collars.

For the women who still cling to the round, collarless neck, the broad pleated neck frills or boas of black, white, gray or soft-toned mousseline de sole are particularly appropriate and becoming. These frills are made just like the ones worn years ago, and tie either in the back or the front with long velvet ribbon streamers.

## Dutch Silver Popular.

For wedding gifts this picturesque and interesting silverware that comes from the land of dykes and windmills is quite appropriate. One may give the more simple style silver pieces for general use, but an odd piece or two of this fascinating ware is sure to be appreciated.

Useful as well as ornamental are the various pieces, and on may have picture frames of varying size, quaint jewel boxes, funny Dutch coffee pots, vases, sets of sugar and cream, fancy baskets that will do for many things, serving spoons, grape scissors, table bells, and tea caddies.

## New Materials

Chiffons are used, but not so generally as they were. The materials employed this season are very much more expensive than they have been for several years; that is, they are more expensive because more elegant.

Various kinds of furs are used on evening gowns, the two most prominent being zibeline and ermine. These two also figure largely as a trimming for millinery.

This new tissue, which they call "velour de laine," is really a first cousin to that which we knew last year as Ratine.

Double-faced materials are used a very great deal for the coats and skirts. Muffs are made in many instances of handsome brocades or velvets, to accord with the materials in the evening wrap or manteau.

Debutantes' frocks still continue to be made of chiffon over white satin or of plain white satin, garnished with small flowers; sometimes the artificial flower is carried out in embroidery. Sashes continue to be a fashion note, never hanging in the back, always swinging from the side.

## Character Dolls.

Perhaps the most interesting feature about the jointed child dolls is the fact that each type is made after the portrait or photograph of a real child, and is often a copy of a living child model.

One traces the incentive to realism in doll manufacture to a lovely elderly woman in Munich. She is an artist, and one with a deep love for childhood. It seemed to her that when one considered all the passion of love which a doll inspires in the breast of its owner, the little girl ought to have a pet that looked more human than dolls have been wont to look. With this idea she developed in plaster dolls that were exact imitations of the various peasant folk who came to Munich from Bavarian and other provinces on a Sunday. The holiday attire of each native village was represented. These delightful little figures of peasant life attracted the attention of the Empress of Germany three years ago, at the time when they first appeared, and she made Christmas presents of them to the children of the royal household. She was delighted with the human-looking manikins, and this fact did not take long to spread throughout the empire and reach the ears of Americans. Now the artist in Munich has several artist assistants to aid her in developing new peasant faces and types.

## Effacing Summer Curves By Pleasant Processes

"Women have been gaining in weight during the summer. A study of Connecticut Avenue or F Street of an afternoon will show this," said a woman who practices physical culture. "Perhaps the most important cause of this is the mental attitude of women. They are willing to gain a little in weight, for they carried the matter of getting thin too far, and, being willing to gain something, they have gained too much."

"Other causes arise from the fashions. Among them can be mentioned the following:

"Sitting in an auto makes women stout. The pretty shoes that are the vogue help to increase one's weight because it is impossible to walk in them."

"Fibrous skirts encourage the coming of the pounds, and even if one doesn't wear a hobble skirt one wears skirts too narrow for comfortable walking."

"Afternoon teas put on flesh. It is true the English women drink tea and eat bread and butter and keep slim, but they take long walks, rain or shine, and they don't hamper themselves with shopping bags or umbrellas."

"Another encourager of flesh is the short waist, which, with its straight skirt, conceals the fact that a woman is stout. It makes a woman feel that she can afford to have full hips, and so she eats a little more and exercises a little less."

"But by far the greatest factor in the general increase in weight is the mental attitude. Last spring the women were reducing so strenuously that they impaired their health. Then they decided that it was better to be a little plumper and to have better health. As a result they began to take ice cream sodas in the middle of the day, between meals and to indulge in afternoon naps. The result was immediately apparent in the added pounds."

"Reducing the weight is difficult for the reason that one looks at it as a great stunt which is next to the impossible, but really it is not so hard. A good way to effect it is to follow the reduction code as it is written out for the English court ladies."

## English Court Ladies' Rules.

"The rules would scarcely do for the woman who has always been too

stout, for she would need something more strenuous, but they would afford a beginning on the right road even for her. They are common sense rules and not hard to understand. They are these:

"Begin to-day.

"Make your next meal light and drink nothing at all with it."

"Take a glass of hot water one hour before your dinner or your luncheon. Then don't drink again until two hours after you've eaten."

"Buy a bedroom scales. Weigh yourself night and morning. Keep a card tacked on the wall and make notes on it daily."

"Unless you eat a big dinner you will be lighter in the morning than you were when you went to bed."

"Once a week have a reduction banquet. Take nothing but hot tea and crackers. Let this be your dinner. You will not die of hunger before morning, and you will waken feeling lighter and better."

"Walk one hour each day. Never mind how far you walk, but keep going for one hour. Walk half an hour going from your home. Then turn and take the other half hour to return."

## The Russian Massage.

"The Russian women who are proud of their white skins have a massage which is made of cut limes and soap. It sounds heroic. They cut a lime, rub it on some good toilet soap and with this rather vigorous sponge they massage themselves. The result is a lather which they take off with hot salt water. It may be that all skins would not stand this, but it works in normal. The menu was olives, clams, breast of chicken, baked potatoes, and salad with coffee minus sugar as a windup."

## Halloween

What a pity it is that we all can't go backward some very several years and dance with the children with our winding sheet about us and a big yellow pumpkin beside us to scare "everybody on the square." The legends and stories that surround the celebration are numerous and well known, but all the little people are very busy getting ready for the occasion, and mother's rag bag is being ransacked for a costume for the fancy ball, and sister's yellow satin petticoat, all unknown to the aforesaid sister, is going to the party as a big yellow pumpkin with her fat little brother and a wad of cotton batting inside.

On the old plantations a knife and a bit of candle were all that was needed to hollow out the Jack-o'-lantern and render it startling enough to send all of the children into spasms of delicious fright. The plantation dardies used to carry around the effigy of their primitive art on a stick, bobbing it in at the windows and singing a weird invocation, supposed to be effectual in calling up the spirits of the future and revealing the mysteries of the unknown to maidens and their swains. The mellow glow of the pine knots on the hearth of the best parlor in the old plantation houses was matched on Halloween night by the mellow notes of the banjo and the singing of the violins as merry feet went to and fro in response to simple but melodious strains evoked by slender, dusky fingers.

There were all sorts of pretty concoctions for choosing partners, and there were games suited for the time and occasion, in which old-fashioned pop-kisses and mystery played prominent part. The pretest and most graceful girl in the countryside stood up to throw an apple paring over her head and watch it form the initial of her sweetheart's name as it fell from her fingers.

The twilight in the long shadowed place for whispered confidences, while fortunes were told in roasting nuts and read in pretty eyes.

The Virginia reel, which ended all dance festivities of an earlier day, was especially gay on such a night, when, as its close the girl who led it left the room and went alone up the stairway into her unlighted chamber to find the face of her future spouse looking at her from the depths of the mirror on her dressing table. She was required to tell her experience, and all was happiness and unshadowed merriment.

## Anti-Christmas Acquisitions.

What seeker for gifts has not felt at one Christmas season or another that the department store supply was all too inadequate? New things appear from time to time, it is true, but with few variations, the conventional articles are repeated each succeeding year. Handkerchiefs, gloves, neckties, books, aprons, hosiery—we all know the familiar list by heart.

It was with the desire to give our relatives and friends something "different" for their Christmas that Cousin Juliet and myself resolved to search for unique sources for our presents. Be it said at the start that we began our treasure hunt very, very early, long before the Christmas crowds thronged the shops and inflated prices were attached to supposed bargains. We had an entire big city at our disposal, an advantage not possessed, of course, by every woman. Yet I venture to say that any one who is not utterly secluded will, if she take the trouble, find in her own particular environment many unusual novelties that may be had at prices far from prohibitive. Certainly there were surprises in store for the two bargain hunters whose quest I am about to relate.

In the first place, we penetrated an Oriental importing establishment whose name and reputation we had always thought synonymous with high prices. In fact, our first glimpse of the main floor, with its vista of costly antiques, elaborate teakwood furniture and expensive wood carving, only confirmed the impression. We pressed on boldly, however. There was a basement, fortunately. It proved to be the Mecca of our desires. The prices and inexpensiveness of the trifles that were played were enough to turn the head of any normal woman. And we were both decidedly feminine. After tearing ourselves away from the odd bowls, trays and vases, with their aluring dragon decorations, we expended our first money for the children's Juliet, and I am rich in nieces and nephews. Juliet declared she was not going to be reckless in this regard any more, taking for the text of her sermonette a mechanical toy purchased the Christmas previous, which cost \$2 and lasted an equal number of weeks.

## Favorite Dishes.

A woman who enjoys having friends to lunch or dinner has the happy faculty of hitting on just the things her guests desire. For some years she has made it a point to jot down the favorite dishes of this friend or that in a tiny note book in her desk. When her Cousin Molly is coming to lunch she looks up her name, and, said, finds recorded that the aforesaid Molly is particularly fond of cold and desserts of any kind, clam or her favorite soup, and in meats she dotes on anything cooked en casserole. With these hints spread before her the matter of planning a meal is considerably simplified.

Another friend has often said she never tasted such pies as are served by her hostess; another likes tomatoes in any form, and still another prefers fish to meat.

The guests little know that they themselves have at some time given the hint as to their likings.

## A Touch of White.

A touch of white at collar and cuffs is the fad of the moment in Paris. Deep broadcloth collars, as well as those of velvet or corduroy, are the features of many jaunty little suits. Becoming to a degree is the broad, prettily shaped and ornate collar of white corduroy used in a new model, which adorns a smart suit of dark brown broadcloth. A chic little brown turban, trimmed with white wings is worn with this costume.

## Styles in Coats.

The favorite styles are the long, straight-cut coats fastening slightly over at the side. These collarless coats give the finishing touch. Many of the revers are made so that they can be fastened over at the shoulder in shield effect, so as to be serviceable in cold weather. Reversible coats are particularly desirable at present.